Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 138496 TOSEC 060030 ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA:ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS S/S-O:SSTEINER

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 138496 TOSEC 060030

EXDIS - FOR TODMAN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, BR, UY, PA, OAS

SUBJECT: IAHRC VISIT TO PARAGUAY

FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES IN GRENADA YOU MAY FIND USEFUL ASUNCION'S 2280 OF JUNE 4. TEXT FOLLOWS:

1. DURING JUNE 3 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SOUTHERN CONE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR PAPPALARDO I WAS GIVEN FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT ON IAHRC VISIT TO PARAGUAY.

FOLLOWING MAY 6 CALL TO ARA/ECA DIRECTOR ZIMMERMANN BY PAPPALARDO CONFIRMING THAT IAHRC VISIT WOULD BE ALLOWED, MATTERS MOVED SMOOTHLY AND ANNOUNCEMENT WAS HOPED FOR WEEK OF MAY 16. URUGUAYAN GENERAL ALVAREZ, WHEN HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT STROESSNER THAT WEEK REGARDING THE SOUTHERN CONE MEETING, COUNSELED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS AGAINST CONFIDENTIAL

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BREAKING SOLIDARITY AND LETTING IAHRC COME TO PARAGUAY. ALVAREZ AND PARAGUAYAN GENERAL GERMAN MARTINEZ THEN PROCEEDED TO BRASILIA TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL ON THE SOUTHERN CONE MEETING. ON HIS RETURN, GENERAL MARTINEZ DELIVERED TO STROESSNER AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH HE RECEIVED

FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA WHICH IN THE STRONGEST

TERMS WARNED STROESSNER NOT TO RECEIVE IAHRC. STROESSNER WAS SO ANGERED THAT HE TORE UP AIDE MEMOIRE. PAPPALARDO SAID THAT URUGUAY AND ESPECIALLY BRAZIL KEEP PRESSING PARAGUAY NOT TO ALLOW THE VISIT AS IT WOULD VIOLATE ITS SOVEREIGNTY. IN CONTRAST, ARGENTINA HAS NOT EXERTED ANY PRESSURE AT ALL.

- 2. NOGUES TOLD ME THAT PAPPALARDO'S TELEPHONE CALL TO ZIMMERMANN WAS BINDING ON PARAGUAY. HE IS AWARE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER BELIEVE THAT PERMISSION HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED. AS THIS IS A POINT OF HONOR HE AND PAPPALARDO FEEL CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER WILL GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IT CANNOT BE DELAYED BECAUSE NOGUES MUST HAVE THE DECISION PRIOR TO GRENADA MEETING WHERE HE EXPECTS SECRETARY VANCE TO QUERY HIM. BOTH NOGUES AND PAPPALARDO MOST OPTIMISTIC WHEN I TALKED TO THEM LAST NIGHT
- 3. CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ROMEO ACOSTA TALKED TO PRESIDENT JUNE 2 AND REPORTEDLY URGED HIM ALSO TO PERMIT THE VISIT SPEEDILY, TO AVOID ANY US ACTION AGAINST UPCOMING CREDITS. JUST IN CASE HE DID NOT MAKE HIMSELF CLEAR, I GAVE NOGUES AND PAPPALARDO THE GIST OF GUATEMALA'S 3415 REPORTING ON THE ARELLANO-ACOSTA TALK.
- 4. NOGUES TOLD ME THAT PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR HAS RECEIVED THE IAHRC REPORT AND SENT FINAL 10 PAGES BY POUCH. NOGUES IS EXPECTING COMPLETE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM IAHRC. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE COPY? PLEASE POUCH SOONEST.

5. I SHALL REMAIN IN DAILY CONTACT NOGUES, PAPPALARDO AND ALL OTHERS WHO CAN HELP AND WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY MAXIMUM PRESSURE THAT VISIT BE AUTHORIZED SPEEDILY. I EXPECT DEPARTMENT TO KEEP UP SAME PRESSURE ON LOPEZ ESCOBAR AND PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE ZIMMERMANN'S EFFORTS OF LAST WEEK. AS WE ARE PRESSED FOR TIME, I RECOMMEND ESCALATING PRESSURE AND HAVE LOPEZ ESCOBAR CALLED IN BY EITHER DEPSEC OR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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